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THE UNIVERSITY MUSEUM
University of Pennsylvania

January 30, 1958

Mr. Lawrence Mitchell
East-West Contacts Office
Department of State
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Mitchell:

Since I gathered from our phone conversation that you already have had something to do with this proposed conference on the Arctic, to be held in Copenhagen in May, I am sending one copies of the invitation from the National Museum in Copenhagen and a personal letter from Birket-Smith. The Conference will not be held, of course, if the Russians do not accept. As you know, its principle objective is to work out some detailed plan whereby anthropological research in northeastern Siberia can be carried out by Americans as well as by men from other free nations. I realize from my conversations in Moscow that this cannot be achieved unless we accept Soviet Scientists in Alaska, Canada and Greenland. The Danes have already invited the Russians to work with them in Greenland next Summer without any reciprocal agreement regarding Siberia. At this Conference, we expect to come up with specific recommendations that certain individuals from Russia work at certain places in Alaska, Canada, and Greenland that certain other free nation scientists work in certain areas of Northeastern Siberia. These recommendations will then be forwarded to specific institutions in all the countries represented. I would like to be in a position to say at this meeting that Soviet researchers will be permitted to work in Alaska if Americans are permitted to work in northeastern Siberia. I would also like to propose that the exchanges be made on the Diomed Islands in Bering Straits in order to avoid the time and expense of traveling most of the way around the world so as to enter this region from Moscow and New York. As you probably know both Soviet and American Coast Guard vessels operate in this region.

Therefore, I am looking specifically for agreement in principle on American-Soviet exchange of Scientists in the Arctic region. However, it is clear that approval of the details can only be obtained after the Conference when, or if, the Russian Academy accepts the principle of exchange. Of course, I'm not optimistic that this can be done at once

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since we will be proposing exchanges in what is a sensitive area, both for the Americans and for the Russians. But judging from what is happening in Russia it does not seem impossible in the near future.

I will, of course, let you know at once when the Danes receive a reply from the Russians. If there is anything more I can do about this at the present time, please let me know.

Most sincerely

/s/

Froelich Rainey
Director

FR:ad
Enc.